

# Hillcrest CHURCH

## Today's Gathering

March 13, 2016

## View from the Hill

Pastor Brian Stroh

## Singing

Cindy Cummins, Nic Torbert, and Tarina Stroh



## Do You Believe I Can Do This?

Doug Bartel

## For the Kids

*Parents can go to the Children's Check-In to find out about our Sunday morning options and check their children in. The Children's Check-In is located on the north side of the main foyer. See page 5 of the bulletin for more information about opportunities for Children and Students.*

# Welcome to Hillcrest

## New to Hillcrest?

If you are new to Hillcrest, we'd like to say "Welcome!" We're glad you're here this morning. Please stop by the Welcome Center, following the worship service to meet one of our pastors and receive a **free gift**.

## Ready to Take the Next Step?

Hillcrest provides many opportunities to get involved with others in the church and the community. If you would like to find out more about classes, Bible studies, and small groups that are offered, stop by the Welcome Center, check out the Ministries section on our web site at [www.sioxfordchurch.com](http://www.sioxfordchurch.com), or call the church office at 371-0546.

## Our Weekly Bulletin and Devotional

Hillcrest provides this weekly bulletin/devotional to help you connect, serve others and study the Bible throughout the week.

On pages 3-5, you will discover connecting and serving opportunities as well as information regarding Children's and Student's Ministries.

On page 6, you have a place to take notes from the message. Also on page 6 is a memory verse, selected each week by Hillcrest leaders.

On pages 7-12, you will find a short devotional for each day. You will read a new text, some commentary and consider some questions to further your growth, as well as a challenge to help you take what you have studied and start to live it!

On page 13, you will find a Prayer Page, where you can keep track of your daily prayers. On page 14, you will find staff contact info.

Our prayer is that God will speak to you as you study His Word and as a result, it will impact the people in your life.

Want information on even more events happening at Hillcrest? Sign up for our weekly e-mail by marking your connection card and turning it in. Don't forget to include your e-mail address!

## Connect

### Sioux Falls Prayer Breakfast

Join other Hillcrest guys for an inspiring start to your Easter Weekend! Hillcrest has 30 tickets available for the Sioux Falls' Prayer Breakfast on Friday, March 25th at 7am at the Ramkota Inn Exhibit Hall. The featured speaker is Daryl Strawberry, former Major League Baseball player who played in 4 World Series, 8 All-star games, and was the Rookie of the Year at age 21. Daryl has a powerful message of fame, fortune, and his fall to grace. Tickets normally cost \$18.75, but thanks to a generous donation, Hillcrest guys can get a ticket for \$10! You won't want to miss this event! Sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your Connection Card.

### Women's Movie Night – War Room

All ladies of Hillcrest are invited to join us on Monday evening, March 14th from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. for a viewing of the movie, War Room. We will meet in the sanctuary to view the film – popcorn will be served, there is no fee for this event.

Following the movie, we will share in a discussion in regards to starting some new prayer ministry groups. Sign-up is not mandatory, but there is a sheet for signing-up located near the Welcome Center – this will allow us to gage the number as far as preparation and will also allow you to specify any questions/comments you might like addressed when discussing the new prayer ministry opportunities. Children would probably not be involved in this evening, due to the later time span and the following discussion, but it will be up to you as the mom, to decide if you would like to bring an older daughter. Questions can be directed to Deanna Moser at 359-7203 or [moser@sio.midco.net](mailto:moser@sio.midco.net)

### Mitch McVicker Concert

On Thursday, March 31st, Christian artist and award winning singer-songwriter, Mitch McVicker, will be performing at Hillcrest Church, starting at 7pm. Cost is \$5 at the door, and kids age 12 and under are free. If you would like more information about Mitch McVicker and his music, you can visit his web site at [mitchmcvicker.com](http://mitchmcvicker.com).

## **Palm Sunday**

Next Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Children's Ministries' pre-school and grade school students will be performing songs during the 9:00 and 10:30 services. Children should be to Hillcrest by 8:40am on March 20th and plan to stay for both services.

## **Easter Eggstravaganza**

The Hillcrest Annual Neighborhood Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 26th, starting at 10am. We will be inviting families from the neighborhood, and Hillcrest children are encouraged to invite their friends. The event will also include a free breakfast, crafts, singing, and a story.

## **Easter Flowers**

Hillcrest is again decorating the Worship Center with Easter flowers this year. If you are interested in purchasing a flower in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form at the Welcome Center, include \$7 to cover the cost and drop it in the purple box. You may take a flower after the 2nd service on Easter Sunday.

## **Serve**

### **March Mission Focus**

Hillcrest's March Mission of the Month is Children's Home Society and Children's Inn. We'll be serving pizza for the students and staff at Children's Home Society on Wednesday, March 2. We need 6 volunteers to help serve the pizza. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or mark the back of your connection card if you are interested in helping out.

We're also collecting items all month for both Children's Home Society and Children's Inn. The lists can be found at the Outreach Bulletin Board.

# Children's Ministry

*All children should stop at the Children's Check-In, located on the north side of the front foyer, before going to their classroom.*

## 9 AM Children's Program

Baby Owl House: 0-4 year olds  
(pre-schoolers will break off into a small learning group)

## 10:30 AM Children's Program

Baby Owl House: Infants & 1 yr olds  
Bird House: 2 year olds  
Tree House: 3 year olds  
Dog House: 4 year olds  
Club House: K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Volunteer Appreciation & VBS Training

Children's Ministries invites all volunteers and families to their annual volunteer appreciation event and VBS training Sunday, April 10, following the 10:30 service. Food and childcare provided. Please sign up in the back foyer or contact Tarina.

# Student Ministry

## 180 Sunday Classes

Students meet upstairs in the Youth Room at 10:30am for snacks and games, then break up into small groups for lessons and discussion time.

## 180 Wednesday Nights

Middle School meets at Hillcrest from 6-7:30pm and High School meets from 7:30-9pm. Includes lesson, small group time, snack, & games!

- On Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, during game time, we will be doing a service project for Children's ministry by packing the treat bags for the Easter egg hunt.

## 180 Events

FVC Painting: On Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, a small group of volunteers will go with Meriah after 2nd Service to paint a mural at Family Visitation Center to spruce up one of the meeting rooms for parents and their children who are in foster care. Please let me know if your student can come. Pizza lunch included. We are looking for students with an attention to detail.

Bigger Better Hunt: On Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 8pm, in place of our normal 180 programming, students will be broken into teams for a competition. Each team will be sent out with the same small item. Their task is to exchange the item for a bigger and better item. They will have 1 hour to walk through the church neighborhood to do their exchanging. They will return to the church to see who has the best item. Bring walking shoes & a coat.

# Message Notes:

Title: Do You Believe I Can Do This?

Scripture: Matt 9:27-30; Heb 11:1; Col 4:2; Ja 2:22

Notes:

For those going deeper:

This week's memory verse

Mark 9:23 (NLT) "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked.  
"Anything is possible if a person believes."

# Monday

Subject: A Life of Prayer

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

## Commentary:

Nothing needs to grow as much as our faith. "When Jesus spoke the words, "According to your faith be it unto you" (Matt.9:29, KJV), He announced the law of the kingdom, which tells us that different people have different degrees of faith, that one person may have varying degrees, and that the amount of faith will always determine the amount of one's power and blessing. If we want to know where and how our faith is to grow, the Master points us to the throne of God. It is in prayer, exercising one's faith in fellowship with the living God, that faith can increase. Faith can only live by feeding on what is divine, on God Himself. Christ Jesus is our life and the life of our faith. It is His life in us that makes us strong and ready to believe.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Am I a person who "doesn't understand or feel the need of spending hours with God?"
2. What can I do right now to change that mindset?

## Challenge:

Let your faith placed in Jesus Christ propel you to seek His will as you go forward into your week. Let the words uttered by the helpless father in Mark 9:24 "I believe, help my unbelief" be your banner.

# Tuesday

Subject: The Cure for Unbelief

Scripture: Matthew 17:19–20

## Commentary:

Though faith is the simplest exercise of the spiritual life, it is also the highest. The spirit must yield itself in perfect receptivity to God's Spirit and become strengthened for this activity. Such faith depends entirely on the state of the spiritual life. Only when this is strong and in good health—when the Spirit of God has total influence in our lives—does faith have the power to do its mighty deeds.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Am I fully aware of all the power I am offered through faith in Jesus Christ?
2. What ways am I actively trying to mold my will to God's? What does that look like?

## Challenge:

Try praying differently by introducing specificity to your requests. Keep a journal to write down the ways God is answering.



# Wednesday

Subject: Eliminate the Drain

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:1-7

## Commentary:

If you had a hole in your gas tank, it wouldn't be long until you investigated why your tank is always empty. I just filled up, you say. Why am I drained again? The same thing happens in our Christian lives. We get filled up with great Bible studies and sermons and we think we're good for the long haul. But not far into the trip, we're out of gas. Completely drained. What happened? I believe one reason our spiritual strength drains quickly out of our lives is because we hoard it. That's right—sounds like the opposite would be true, but it's not. If we keep everything we gain in the Christian life to ourselves, we end up running out of gas. The apostle Paul mentions a bunch of reasons why we get spiritually exhausted in 2 Timothy 2, but let's focus on just one. I'll call it: "The Teacher Transfer Principle." Here it is: I must transfer the truth I've learned to others or it will drain away my spiritual strength.

## Questions for further thought:

1. How am I "hoarding" today?
2. When the last time I shared with another believer about what God is teaching me?

## Challenge:

Take some time this week to discuss with another believer the things God is impressing upon you.

# Thursday

Subject: Pathway to Peace

Scripture: Philippians 4:6–9

## Commentary:

Have you ever been trying to get somewhere and you know where you want to be but you just can't seem to find the way to your destination? So many want to arrive at peace but have no idea what path will take them there. The starting point for the pathway to peace is the trailhead, if you will. Every trail begins with a trailhead and many trailheads have a little kiosk where you get information about what's ahead. Look in Philippians at the little kiosk Paul shows us so we can learn a little about the path ahead. It says, "Do not be anxious about anything . . ." The original word for anxious is a very interesting word. It means to be pulled apart. Would you agree that is what happens when we are anxious? Our hopes and dreams are over here on one side and our fears and doubts are on the other side. And this is literally pulling us apart. Depending on which side is winning this tug-of-war determines if we are on the pathway to peace. Lastly, make your petitions known with thankfulness, no matter what the situation is. In the middle of all your anxiety and worry, sweating and wringing of hands, thank God that He is already in the process of handling whatever the situation is.

## Questions for further thought:

1. Has this challenged how I would typically define "peace"?
2. How have I been pursuing the idea of peace? What do I need to change?

## Challenge:

Be generous in your thankfulness and gratitude to the Lord and for all that He has done. See if pursuing this life of gratitude doesn't increase your peace.

# Friday

Subject: Be Watchful

Scripture: Colossians 4:2-6

## Commentary:

The Greek word for "continue" means "to be courageously persistent" or "to hold fast and not let go". Either way this appears to specifically reference that we are to be mightily persistent in our prayer life. So how are you doing in this area? As the passage continues, it references that we should "be watchful". Obviously, we are to stay awake while we pray, but could this be referring to something bigger? Is it possible that Paul may be talking about staying alert for specific needs about which to pray, rather than being vague and unfocused? When we get focused and serious about prayer is when the Lord shows up and our faith muscle is strengthened.

## Questions for further thought:

1. How am I being watchful about how I pray?
2. What could I change to make my prayers more "specific"?

## Challenge:

Keep laser focus on your prayer petitions this week and see how the Lord works in and around you.

# Saturday

(Looking to Sunday)

Message Series: The Counselor  
Message Title: Do You Want to Get Well?  
Scripture: John 5:1-9  
Speaker: Doug Bartel

What do these passages say to you?

## Prayer Page:

Write down the prayer concerns and praises you want to remember throughout the week. Pray every day!

If you would like to receive the email prayer chain, check the box on the Connection Card. You can also submit prayer requests through the church web site or by calling the church office.

[illegible]

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

# Staff Contact Information



**Doug Bartel**  
Lead Pastor  
dougbartel@siouxfallschurch.com



**Brian Stroh**  
Ministry Pastor  
brianstroh@siouxfallschurch.com



**Tarina Stroh**  
Children's Ministries Coordinator  
tarinastroh@siouxfallschurch.com



**Meriah VanderWeide**  
Student Ministries Coordinator  
mvanderweide@siouxfallschurch.com



**Melissa Simpson**  
Power House Director  
msimpson@siouxfallschurch.com



**Jennifer Simons**  
Administrative Assistant  
jennifersimons@siouxfallschurch.co



**Bill Lewis**  
Custodian

# Connection Card

Please fill out, tear at perforation and place in collection plate or drop off at Welcome Center as you leave.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**    ☐ **Keep confidential (Pastoral staff) or**    ☐ **Put on the Prayer Chain**

My next step today is to:

☐ Read and study the scriptures and devotionals, provided on pages 6-12.

☐ Attend the Men’s Prayer Breakfast on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Additional Comments:



4301 E. 26<sup>th</sup> St. Sioux Falls, SD 57103

605-371-0546

[www.siouxfallschurch.com](http://www.siouxfallschurch.com)

## Connection Card

Please fill out and tear at perforation and place in collection plate or drop off at Welcome Center as you leave.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check all that apply:

- ☐ 1<sup>st</sup> Visit --- How did you hear about Hillcrest? \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ 2<sup>nd</sup> Visit \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Returning Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Regular Attender \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Members \_\_\_\_\_

(web site, newspaper, radio, name of person who invited you, etc.)

***I am interested in:***

- ☐ beginning a relationship with Jesus      ☐ being baptized  
☐ receiving the Hillcrest Informational E-mail.  
☐ joining a small group      ☐ becoming a member of Hillcrest  
☐ volunteering      ☐ praying for my Hillcrest family (received via e-mail)

*One of the pastors will contact you with information on these subjects.*

**Your Age Group:**

- ☐ 18-24      ☐ 25-35  
☐ 36-45      ☐ 46-55  
☐ 56-65      ☐ over 65

☐ Single      ☐ Married

☐ Divorced

☐ Widowed

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Names & Birthdays of  
members of your  
household**

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____